Message Text

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TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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USIA FOR IPS/PE

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT MONDALE

1. FINLAND'S LARGEST DAILY, INDEPENDENT HELSINGIN SANOMAT (CIR. 350,000) HAS REQUESTED POST ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING POSSIBILITY OBTAIN BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT WALTER MONDALE PRIOR TO OR DURING FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN TRIP. REQUEST MADE DURING INTRODUCTORY CALL ON POST IO AND EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR BY HELSINGIN SANOMAT EDITOR NEWLY-ASSIGNED EUROPEAN FOREIGN RELATIONS COVERAGE. BOTH POST AND HELSINGIN SANOMAT AWARE DIFFICULTIES POSED BY TIGHT SCHEDULING IN GAINING ACCESS TO MONDALE. POST PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO QUERY AGENCY RE POSSIBILITIES.

2. SPECIFICALLY, HELSINGIN SANOMAT WILLING SUBMIT "HALF DOZEN" QUESTIONS FOR MONDALE RESPONSE IN LIEU PERSONAL INTERVIEW. OPTIMALLY, PAPER DESIRES SEND SENIOR STAFFER FOR BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH MONDALE ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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POINT HIS EUROPEAN ITINERARY. SUBJECT QUESTIONS WOULD BE GENERAL U.S.-EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AS WELL AS EXPECTATIONS AND INTENTIONS NEW ADMINISTRATION RE CSCE ISSUES. HELSINGIN SANOMAT DESIRES TO PUBLISH RESULT EARLY IN MONDALE EUROPEAN VISIT.

3. RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTIES, BOTH POST AND EMBASSY

STRONGLY ENDORSE HELSINGIN SANOMAT REQUEST AND ENCOURAGE AGENCY EFFORTS TO DETERMINE POSSIBILITIES, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PROBABILITY THAT SUCH AN INTERVIEW WOULD BE PICKED UP BY OTHER SCAN NEWSPAPERS. HELSINGIN SANOMAT INITIATIVE REPRESENTS OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION TO REACH NORDIC AUDIENCE NOT INCLUDED PRESENT ITINERARY.

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